

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee
November 26, 2012
Minutes

Present : Gil Archambault – Chairman
 Ricky Riendeau – Vice Chairman, DPW Director
 Gary Daniels – Board of Selectmen Representative
 Michael Viola – Police Chief
 Bill Parker – Community Development Director
 Richard Tortorelli – Retired Fire Chief
 Dave Wheeler – Executive Councilor

Celeste Philbrick Barr, 44 Prospect St.
Tim Barr, 44 Prospect St.
Ron Bosse, 75 Prospect St.
Stephen Goodwin, 131 Prospect St.
Blanca Goodwin, 131 Prospect St.
Deborah Hayes, 60 Prospect St.
Joanie Laychak, 59 Prospect St.
David Osborn, 39 Cottage St.
Susan Price, Safety Official from Raleigh, NC
William Tagye, 54 Prospect St.
Joel Trafford, 64 Prospect St.
Bonnie Robitaille, 71 Prospect St.

Secretary: Mindy Lavallee, Recording Secretary

1. *Roll Call vote required by the BOS.*

NEW BUSINESS:

2. *Resident Concerns with speeding on Prospect St. (BOS)*

J. Laychak spoke first. She said there has been an increase in traffic on Prospect St. coming and going from Ledgewood and vehicles often speed. She recently heard there had been an accident involving a vehicle coming down from Phillips Way and up through Ledgewood. She said she would like to see the addition of speed bumps on Prospect St. as well as signs that display the speed limit and “Children at Play” signs; there are approximately fourteen (14) kids under the age of twelve (12) living on Prospect St.

B. Robitaille said she has witnessed 18-wheelers to and from Ledgewood. She said she lost a dog due to an accident last winter. Vehicles often speed over the hill at the southerly end of Prospect St.

S. Goodwin said although he is new to the neighborhood, he has seen a surprising amount of traffic coming to and from Ledgewood.

R. Bosse said he has noticed an increase in traffic during shift changes. There are also a lot of delivery and rubbish trucks that speed on the road.

C. Barr said one of the issues is the use of Phillips Way as a two-way street. Her suggestion is to send a letter from the Police Dept. to Ledgewood personell regarding their commercial vehicles/ deliveries.

B. Parker said a letter from Police is a good suggestion as well as possibly putting up more signage.

J. Laychak asked if there was opposition to putting in speed bumps.

B. Robitaille asked if there was opposition to putting up “Children at Play” signs.

R. Riendeau said that the Town does not typically put up speed bumps or “Chidlren at Play” signs because they can be a liability. It could be possible to put up “No Through Truck” signs.

M. Viola said he agreed with the suggestion to send a letter out to educate drivers and possibly follow-up with patrols in that area. It would be good to get an idea of what times the traffic seems to be most prevelant.

B. Robitaille asked what the speed limit would be on Prospect St. if the Town were to post signage. The Committee agreed that it would be 25MPH.

Several residents made suggestions regarding signage, particularly around the area where the gate had been proposed at Ledgewood.

M. Viola explained that after a while, people tend to not look at signs. Enforcement is key.
W. Tagye asked if there was a way to petition to change a road from public use to emergency use only.
B. Parker said W. Tagye could send correspondence to the BOS regarding this request.
C. Barr said it would be good to have a speed limit sign up as she has recieved different answers as to what the actual speed limit is, and whether ot not it should be changed.
G. Daniels said it would be good to check what speed limit is in the ordinance. It would be up to the BOS to make a speed limit change.
G. Archambault thanked the residents for attending the meeting and said the TSC would discuss the issues further and make a recommendation to the BOS.

3. Resident Concerns with speeding on Cottage St. (BOS)

D. Osborn said there are lot of children who play on Cottage St. and he would like to see “Children at Play” or “Slow Children” signs put up on the southerly end of it. He said he also thought there should be signage at the blind curve going onto Ash St. He said he is aware that police presence has been in the area.
G. Daniels explained that “Children at Play” and “Slow Children” signs can be a liability on the Town.
M. Viola said the area was patrolled a couple weeks ago and no one went over 30 MPH. 57 cars were clocked during the patrol; 42 vehicles went 25 MPH or less, and 15 vehicles went between 25 and 30 MPH. This was during the morning and afternoon; he will try and do a late night patrol.
G. Daniels asked if there was a history of accidents on the curve.
M. Viola said he would look into it.
B. Parker said a “Sharp Curve” sign could be placed at the curve. The TSC could look into what signs are available.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Update re: traffic impacts in relation to proposed senior housing developmentat North River Rd. and Mont Vernon Rd. (B. Parker)

B. Parker said the project was finally approved for a Special Exception by the Zoning Board Special Exception on November 16th, with a single access on Mont Vernon Rd. and a potential gated access on North River Rd. The Senior Housing Oridnace only allows one (1) entrance into the development but the ZBA is going to allow an emergency access. The concept must now go before the Planning Board for more detailed site planning.
D. Wheeler said he spoke to the Commissioner and was asked to make a recommendation. He opposed the idea of having the entrance on Rte 13, which would require all residents travelling northbound on Rte 13 to cross southbound traffic. The Commissioner of DOT tends to agree that the entrance on North River Rd would be more acceptable, providing that there is adequate sight distance. At the first TSC meeting regarding this proposed development, Meridian testified that they could obtain safe sight distance for a North River Rd entrance. Allowing a Rte 13 entrance will eventually require lowering the speed limit and/or another stop sign and turning lane. Rte 13 should not be unecessarily allowed to become another Rte 101.
B. Parker said this is something that the Planning Board will look at. The TSC can review the concept plan again prior to Planning Board approval.
M. Viola said he looked into the accident history, and there has only been one (1) accident in the past year in that area.

5. Approval of Minutes from August 13, 2012

G. Archambault asked for a motion to approve the minutes.
D. Tortorelli made a motion. R. Riendeau seconded. All were in favor.
Minutes from the August 13, 2012 meeting were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.